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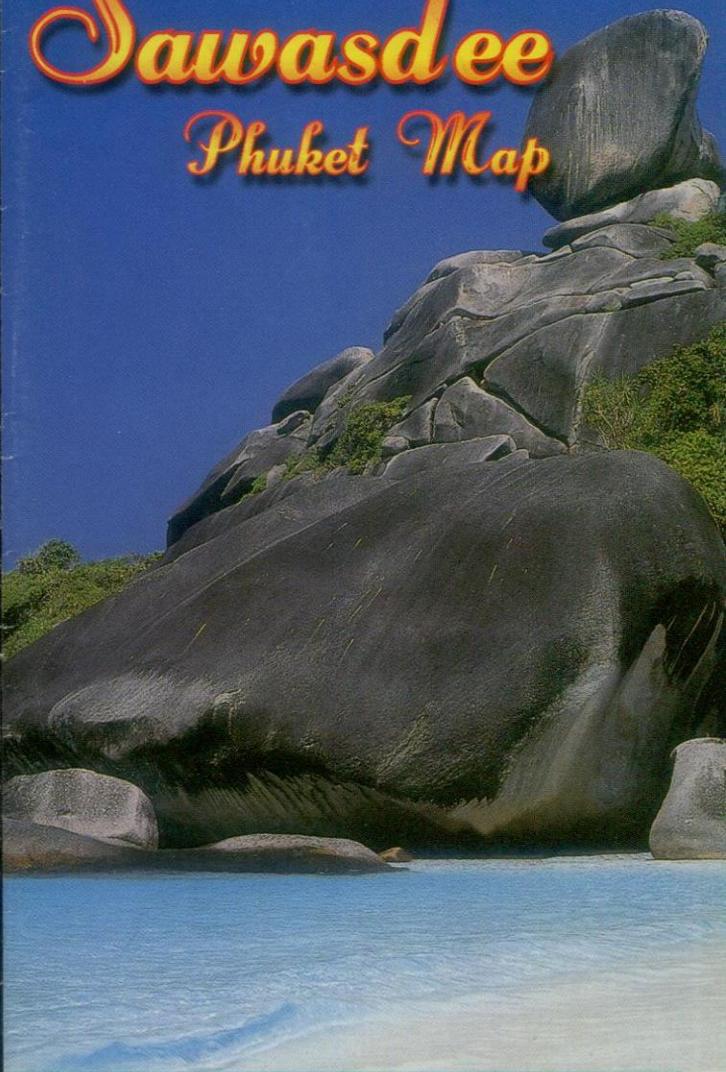
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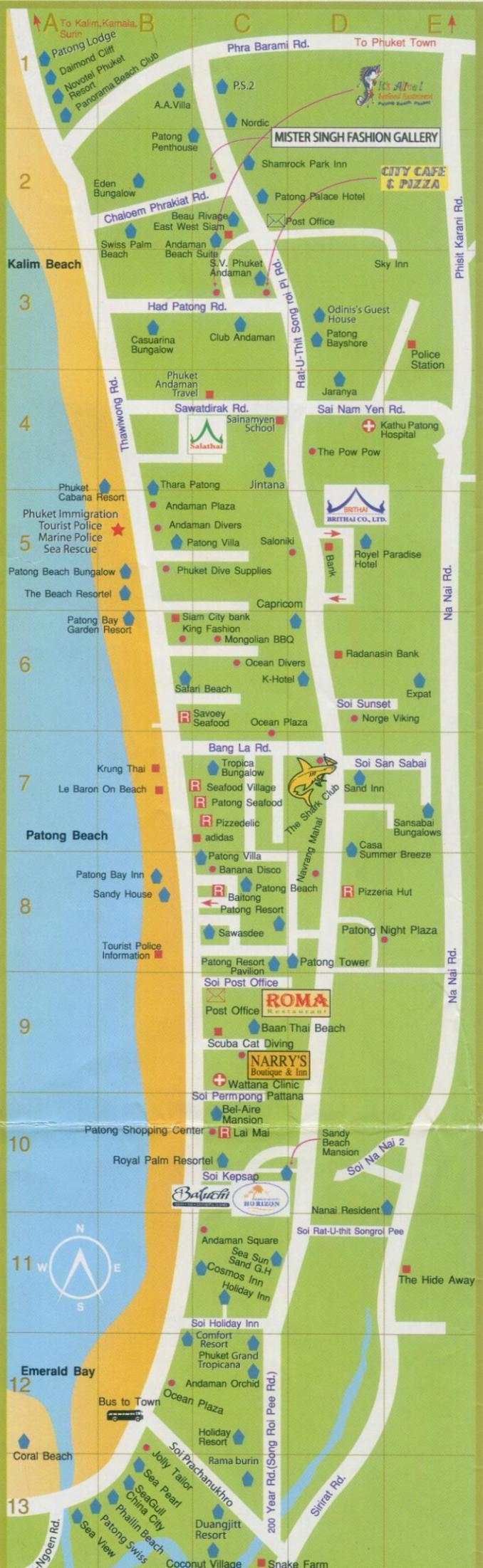


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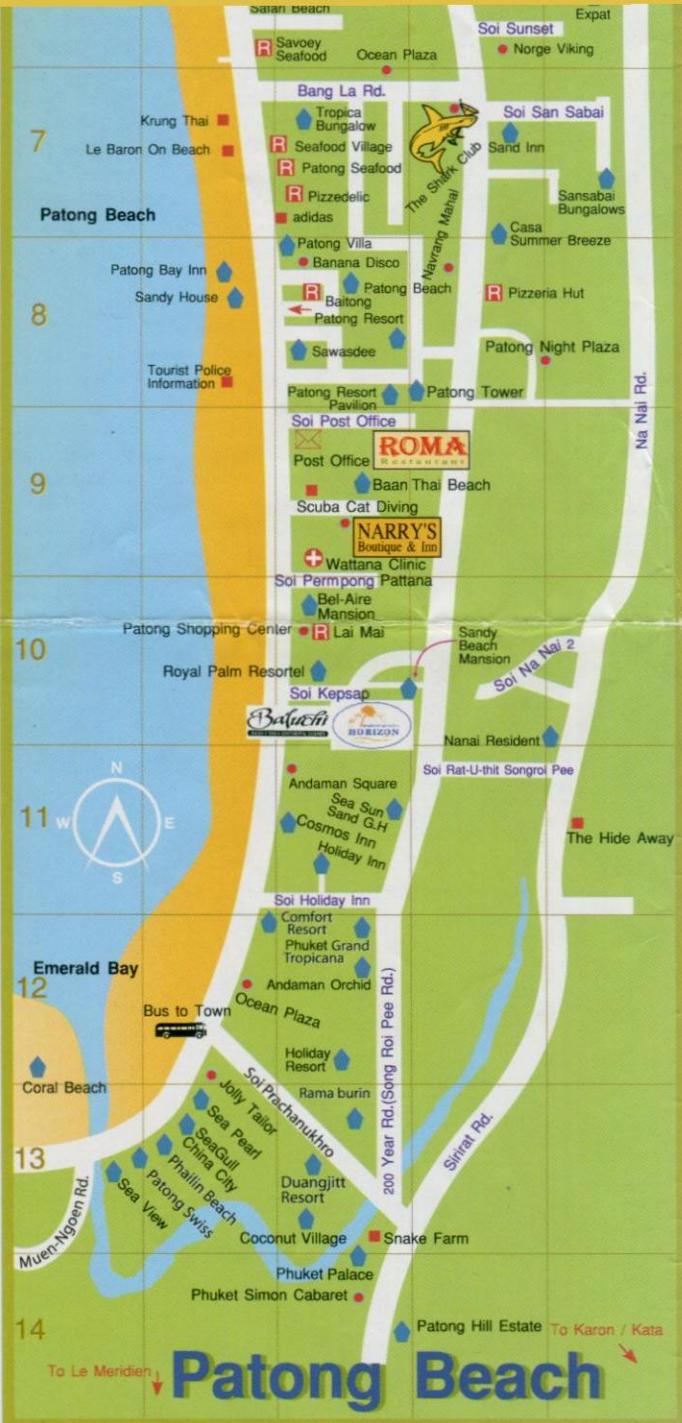
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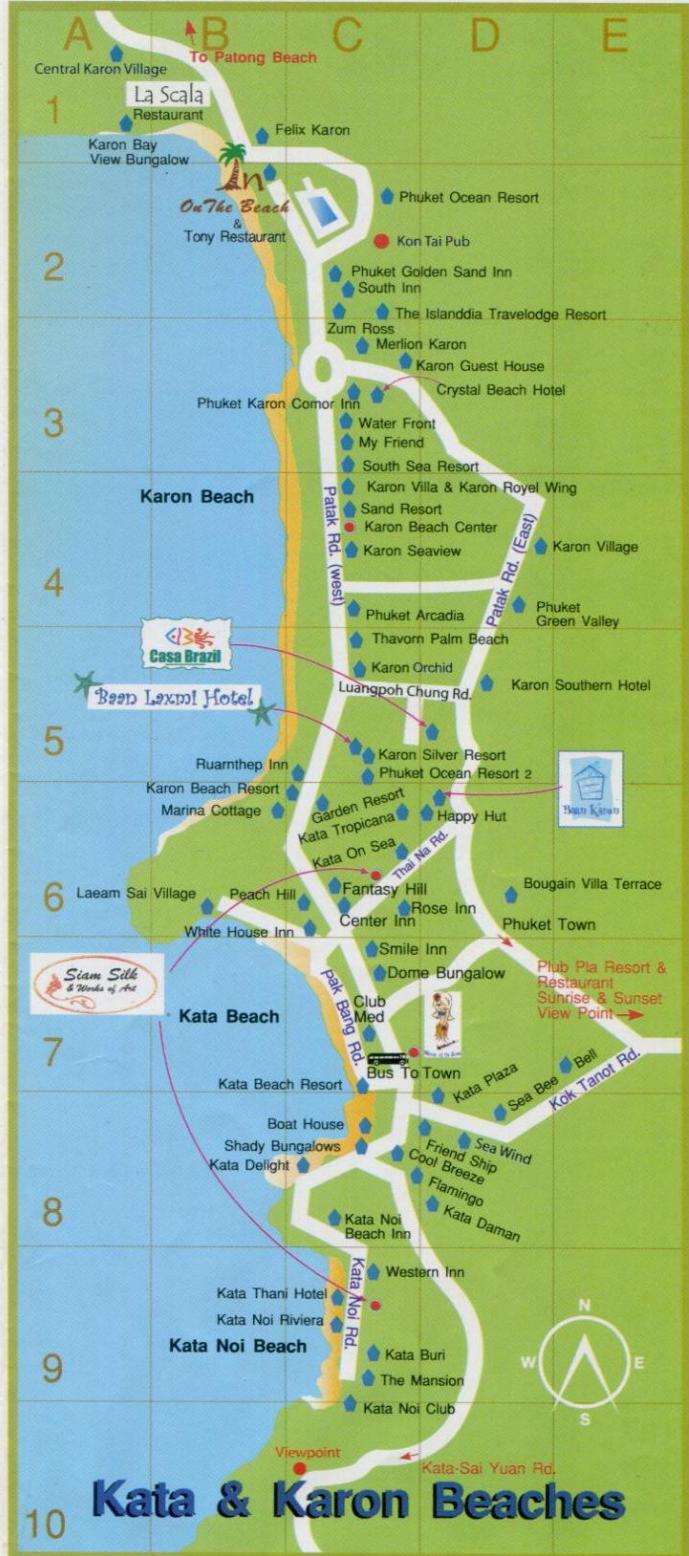
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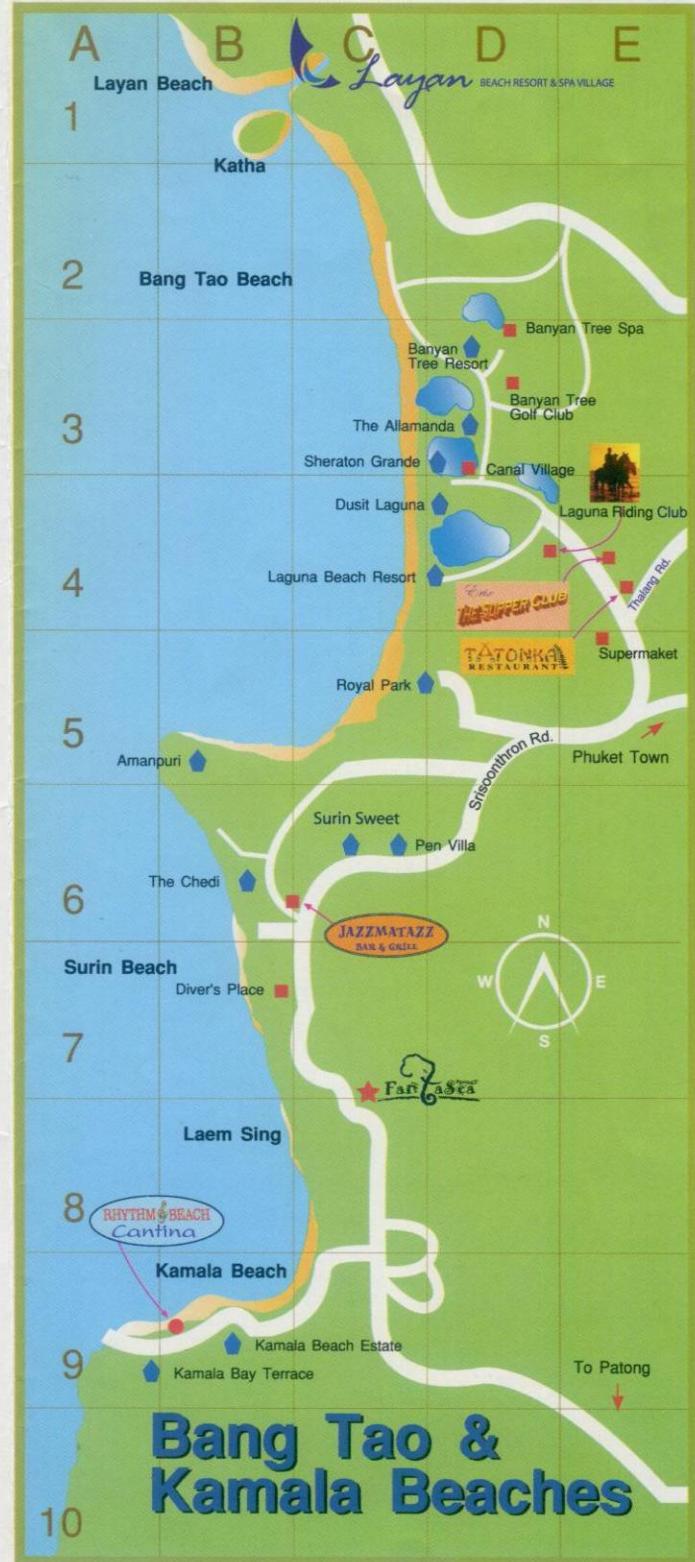
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Phuket Island Map B3

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Phuket Town Map D1 and Kata Karon Beach Map D6



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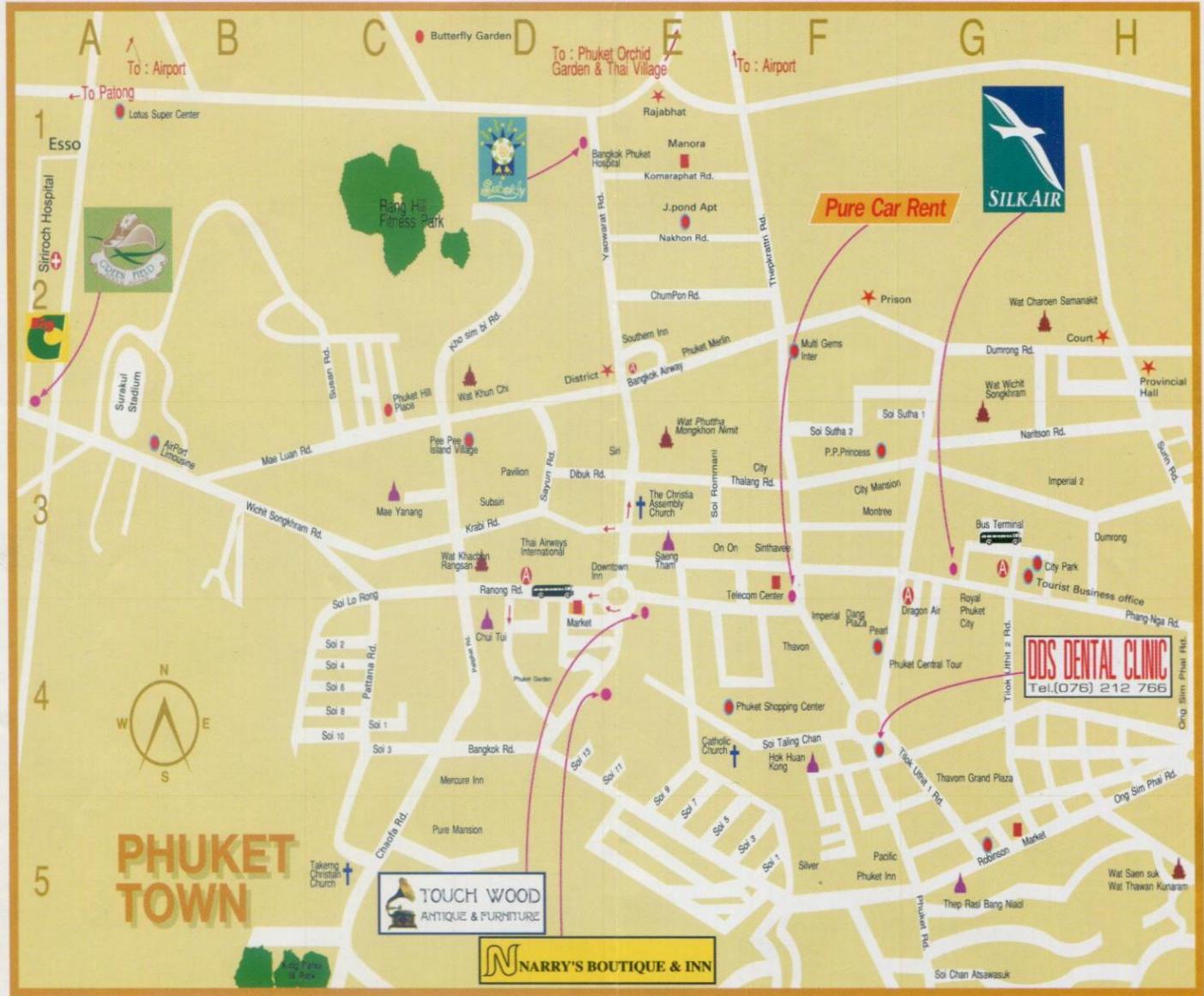
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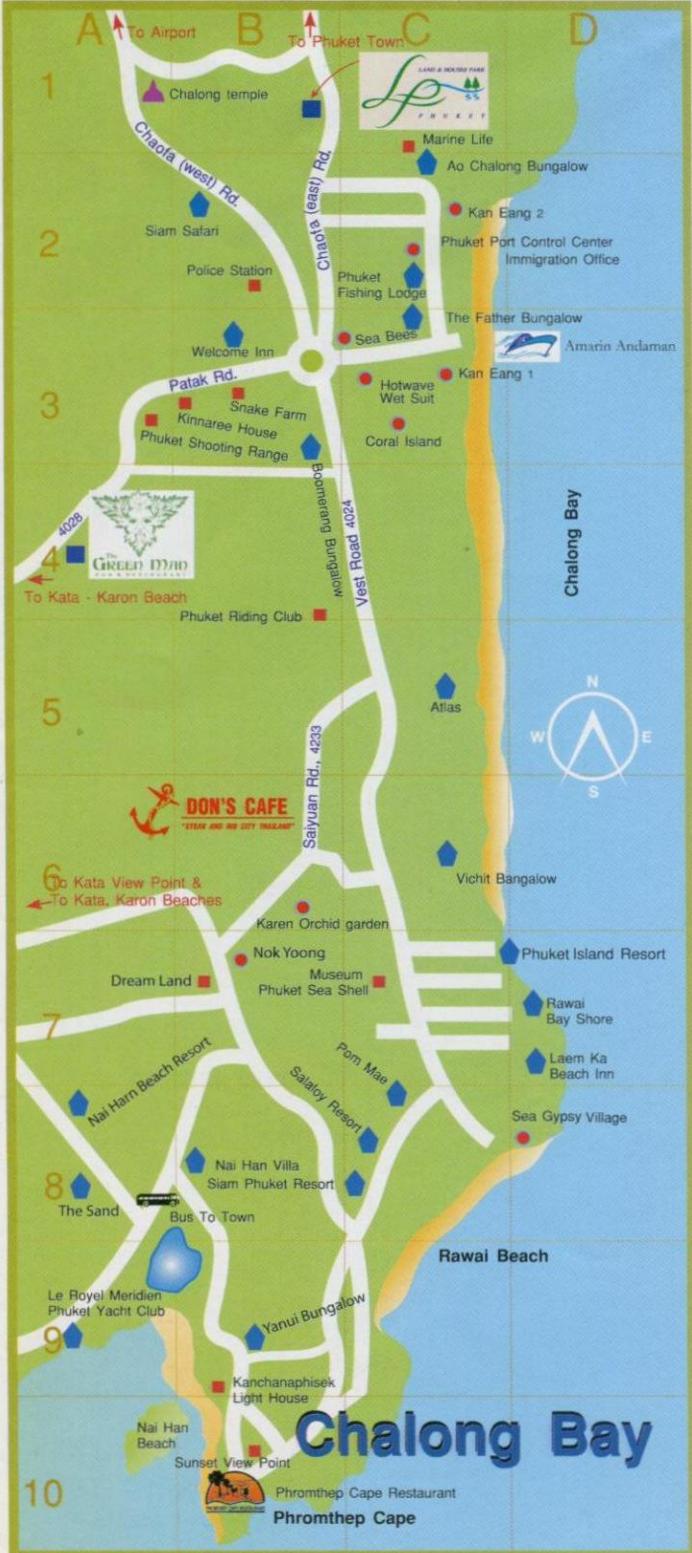
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In all of the Thai dramatic art, "Khon" is considered as the high class play that originated several hundred years ago, at least from the 20th Century B.E. Originally,

Khon was adapted from three type of plays, they were grand shadow play, Chak Nak Dueg Damban and the Swordplay and had been improved for the more delicate play in the later dates. The story preferred to be played is the

Ramayana which is the story of the prestige enhancement to the "Rama", the King of Ayothaya. The story is told of the fighting war between "Ravana", the great demon King of Lanka which is on the evil side and "Rama" who is on the righteousness side.

The notable unique characters of Khon is that most performers wear the masks, except for the performers who play the divine male deva, female immortal and male and female human beings wear only the head ornaments like crowns, headdress, tiara, etc. However, all of those must have someone narrate for them, but some of the hermit or comeian roles say their own words and that is the Khon performance identity.

The plays related to the "Ramayana" literature are not only played in Thailand, but they have been well-known throughout other countries in Southeast Asia as well. In Thailand the Khon Story / Photo by : Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)

play on Ramayana story is regarded as royal entertainment, that is, the drama troupe must be owned by the King because

the play on the Ramayana story was considered as one of the administrative well-thought plans of Thailand in the past when Ayutthaya was the capital of Thailand. Khon is the high class play that has been developed

according to time until the find form of play is appropriately adapted. The Khon performers are dressed in beautiful, artistic designing costumes. The dancing and movement postures have been improved and developed through nature so that the audiences can understand the story with exciting moods. The accompanied music and songs are all classics, beautiful and sweet, and considered as the true delicacy, meticulousity and beauty of the play, compa-

rable to the ballet shows of the western countries that display the influence of the global performers as well. Khon has been the old acting culture of Thailand, succeeded continuously not less than five hundred years. When Thailand has chances to welcome the state guests, Khon has been selected to be performed in front of those distinguished guest as all time, because "Khon" is the play that does not rely heavily on the understanding of language like other performances as it has the universal and natural characteristics as mentioned before. Khon has still been Thailand's unique play for long time and will be like this forever.

